

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Santa Ana Region
April 18, 2008

ITEM: 12

SUBJECT: Basin Plan Consolidation Project

DISCUSSION:

The Basin Plan was last printed in 1995 after substantial review and revision as part of a statewide Basin Plan update process. Since then, the Board has revised the Plan with 11 separate amendments, including revisions to bacterial objectives for ocean waters, establishing a policy for authorizing compliance time schedules in NPDES permits, adding eight total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) and associated implementation plans, and the adoption of a region-wide Total Dissolved Solids and Nitrogen Management Plan. While the Plan and all these amendments have always been available to the public through the Region's web site, and the approved amendments were acknowledged as being part of the Plan, these amendments have never been folded into a unified Basin Plan document.

Board staff is pleased to report that we have completed the work of consolidating all adopted basin plan amendments into an easily accessible Basin Plan electronic document. In addition to editing to physically incorporate approved Basin Plan amendments into the structure of the Plan, this effort involved reproducing the Plan in a popular and easily searchable electronic format (different from the format used in 1994-95), reformatting the page structure from two columns per page to a full page width format and using a modern font, and updating the format (but not revising the content) of some of the graphics in the 1995 plan that had not been affected by any of the amendments. Extensive format editing and proof-reading was also necessary to incorporate amendments and format revisions in a way that results in a clear and useful Basin Plan.

It is important to note that all Basin Plan revisions that are included in the 2008 consolidated Plan have been approved by the Regional Board, State Board, and Office of Administrative Law, and where applicable, by USEPA. Basin Plan amendments become effective upon final approval, a process that may take many months or even years. Only after final approval will amendments be consolidated into the Plan.

The 2008 consolidated Plan is (or will soon be) available at the Region's web site. At this time, there are no plans to print the 2008 consolidated Plan in quantity. Although we believe that the updated Plan we have posted is free of errors, the Basin Plan web page invites users to report any errors so that they can be corrected. The Basin Plan web page will also be updated to include useful links to Basin Plan-related resources, such as maps, that update information presented in Plan, but that have not yet been amended into the plan. We will also continue to separately list Basin Plan amendments on the Region's web site, so that users can easily access the amendments and observe the evolution of the Plan.